

SECRET

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

8 December 1981

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
The Secretary of Defense
Room 3E880
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Cap,

Attached is the final report of the interagency task force headed by Paul Nitze, on its study of how the Soviets assess the capabilities of their nuclear forces to carry out the missions called for by Soviet strategy. Paul's cover letter contains his evaluation of the approach and explains the uncertainties and differences of view about the analysis and its conclusions.

Some of the assessments and the resulting substantive findings of the study are of questionable value because of uncertainties and major gaps in intelligence critical to the analysis. Nevertheless, as a first effort to replicate the Soviets' analysis of the capabilities of their forces, the study should inform those responsible for the interagency net assessment being conducted under Andy Marshall's direction. I agree with Paul, that we should concentrate intelligence collection and analysis on improving our understanding of how the Soviets assess the capabilities of their nuclear forces, and we are taking steps to this end. As Paul points out, however, the study methodology is not suitable for use in the production of national intelligence.

I appreciate your cooperation and the participation of Department of Defense personnel in the conduct of the study.

Yours,

William J. Casey

Attachment

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